

CLAIMS

1. An ocular irrigating solution for irrigating the eye during surgery comprising a source of bicarbonate ions and a physiologically acceptable organic buffer which is an organic zwitterionic buffer having a buffering capacity within the range pH 6.8 to 8.0.

2. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1, wherein the organic buffer maintains the solution at a pH in the range 7.2 to 7.8.

3. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the organic buffer is a zwitterionic amino acid.

4. An ocular irrigating solution according to
15 claim 3, wherein the organic buffer is N-2-
[hydroxyethyl]piperazine-N'-[2-ethanesulfonic acid].

5. An ocular irrigating solution according to ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the concentration of the buffer is from 10 to 50 mmol/l.

20 ~~any preceding claim~~ ^{f.} An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1, wherein the bicarbonate source is sodium bicarbonate.

7. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 6, wherein the bicarbonate source is preferably present in the solution to give a bicarbonate concentration of about 10 to 50 mmol/l.

8. An ocular irrigating solution according to ~~any Skion claim~~ which does not contain glucose, or any other energy source which tends to degrade at physiological pH over extended time periods.

9. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1 having been sterilised by an autoclaving procedure.

10. An ocular irrigating solution according to
35 claim 1, for use in a surgical method performed on the
eye.

